



AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

TO: Agricultural Service Board

DATE: February 25, 2021 **DIVISION:** All

FILE: N/A

SUBJECT: Agricultural Service Board Annual Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Agricultural Service Board (ASB) is a Committee of Council created under the Agricultural Service Board Act. The Agricultural Service Board Annual Report identifies the activities and achievements of the ASB and Agricultural Services staff in 2020. Agricultural Services staff will provide a presentation summarizing the full report.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION:

Administration recommends that the Agricultural Service Board Annual Report be received as information in accordance with Option #1.

BACKGROUND:

The Rocky View County's Agricultural Service Board was the first ASB established in the province in 1945 under the *Agricultural Service Board Act*. Under current legislation, administration of several provincial acts is delegated to rural municipalities, with some compensation provided if the following duties are undertaken by the ASB:

- to act as an advisory body and to assist the council and the Minister, in matters of mutual concern
- to advise on and to help organize and direct weed & pest control and soil & water conservation programs
- to assist in the control of animal disease under the *Animal Health Act*
- to promote, enhance and protect viable and sustainable agriculture, and
- to promote and develop agricultural policies to meet the needs of the municipality.

A three-year ASB Strategic Plan (and detailed action plan) is required to identify how the ASB and Agricultural Services staff intend to implement agricultural programs to fulfill these duties. Based on evaluation of these plans and the outcomes, and on Council's annual approval, grants are allocated to the County.

DISCUSSION:

Rocky View County's ASB Strategic Plan is reviewed annually to ensure that the board and Agricultural Service Staff are working towards, or have achieved, the goals outlined in the plan. Attached is the ASB Annual Report for 2020.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

No budget implications.

Administration Resources

Jeff Fleischer, Agricultural and Environmental Services



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:

The Agricultural Service Board Annual Report supports the following strategic objectives from Council:

- Create a Culture of Customer Service
- Expand Community Service Delivery
- Embrace Partnerships
- Strengthen our Financial Resiliency
- Guide the County's Growth Pattern

OPTIONS:

Option #1 THAT the Agricultural Service Board Annual Report be received as information.

Option #2 THAT alternative direction be provided.

Respectfully submitted,

Concurrence,

"Jeff Fleischer"

"Byron Riemann"

Manager, Agricultural and Environmental Services Executive Director, Operations

Attachment 'A' – 2020 Agricultural and Environmental Services 2020 Annual Report

Agricultural and Environmental Services Annual Report - 2020**Total****Customer Service**

Service Requests – Average Time to Close

4.7 hours

Legislative Stream**Goal Area 1: Delivery/Support of the Agricultural Pests Act**

# of Appointed Pest Inspectors:	
# of Canola Fields	575
# of Fields Inspected For:	
-Clubroot	549
-Fusarium graminearum	7
Bertha Armyworm Inspections	4
Dutch Elm Traps (elm bark beetle)	9
Grasshopper Survey Sites	16
Rat Calls	1
Rat Inspections	1
Tree Calls	23
Tree Inspections	2
# of Rental Traps Utilized:	
-Skunk	13
-Magpie	2
-Raccoon	3
-Pigeon	1
-Squirrel	1
-Hay Probe	6
-Soil Probe	1
# of Pocket Gopher Traps Sold	0
# of Producers requiring 2%	66
# of Producers requiring 1080	15
# of Bat Boxes Sold	1

Goal Area 2: Delivery/Support of the Soil Conservation Act

# of Soil Conservation Inspectors	5
# of Soil Conservation Inspections	0
# of Responses for "Topsoil" Developments Permit Applications	10

Goal Area 3: Delivery/Support of the Weed Control Act

# of Weed Inspectors Appointed	11
# of CityView Weed Cases	404
# of Weed Notices Issued	17
# of Prohibited Noxious Weed Cases	6
# of Formal Weed Inspections	10,013
# of Re-inspections	3,705
# of Municipal & Portable Seed Cleaning Plants Inspected	1
Hectares of Road-edge Treated for the Encroachment of Grass	43
Hectares of Noxious Weeds controlled	1,595
KM's of Roadside Mowed	8,902
# of Municipal Reserves Inspected	209
# of Municipal Reserves Spot Treated for Noxious Weeds	18
# of Municipal Reserves Mowed	42
Purple Loosestrife Weed Control	4

Weed Control Contracts:	
-City of Airdrie	1
# of Producers Qualifying for the Certified Weed Free Hay Program	2
Rental of Backpack Sprayer	1
Rental of Pasture Sprayer	11
Roadside Seeding and Reclamation Projects	5

Goal Area 4: Delivery/Support of the Animal Health Act

# of Reportable or Notifiable Diseases	0
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Goal Area 5: Promote and Develop Agricultural Policies

# of Circulation Responses to Land Use Redesignations, Subdivisions, and Development Permits	230
# of ASB Training Sessions	0

Goal Area 6: Provide Diverse Educational Opportunities

# of AGReviewNewsletter Issues Produced	12
# of AGReview Newsletters Sent to Producers	4,119
# of Workshops Organized	14
# of Workshop Attendees:	486
# of Partnering Organizations:	23
MD of Bighorn, Mountain View County, Kneehill County, Wheatland County, Red Deer County, Clearwater County, MD of Foothills, City of Calgary, City of Chestermere, Town of Crossfield, Town of Airdrie, Town of Cochrane, Foothills Forage, Grey Wooded Forage, AB Agriculture and Forestry, Cows & Fish, Old College, 4-H, AFAC, NAISMA, AAAF, ALUS, AWES	
# of Publications Distributed	1,100
# of Agricultural Tour Participants	0
# of Aggie Days Attendees	0
# of Students Enrolled in the Freshwater Field Study Program	0
# of Staff Participating in the Classroom Agriculture Program	1
Master Farm Family Award	0
Stampede Farm Family Award	0
Olds College Scholarship (\$500.00)	1
4-H Scholarship (2 @ \$500.00)	2
# of Website Clicks on Ag Webpage	27,743

Goal Area 7: Environmental Sustainability

# of Trained Staff to Assist With EFP & GF2	3
# of Producers Who Received Assistance with an EFP	14
# of EFP Calls/Requests	25
# of EFP's in Progress	4
# of EFP's Completed	4
# of Agri-Environmental Incentive Programs (4 programs offered)	4
# of Ag Producers utilizing Incentive Program	15
# of Meetings Planned/ Attended re: Rural Watershed Management	31
# of Regional Airshed Societies Supported (CRAZ)	1
# of WSG's Supported (ERWP, NCWP, JCWP, RDRWA)	4
# of WPAC's Supported (BRBC)	1
# of Workshops Planned re: Riparian Health & Restoration Projects	3

Environmental Stream**Environmental Program Plan Goal 1:**

Enhance watershed health and environmental sustainability by encouraging responsible stewardship of air, land, biodiversity and water resources.

Strategy 1: Heighten Educational Role in Rural Water Management Through Partnerships with WSGs, Government, Municipalities and NGOs

of Meetings Planned/ Attended

-Bow River Phosphorous Management Plan	0
-WSG & WPAC Meetings	31

# of Regional Airshed Societies Supported (CRAZ)	1
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# of WSG's Supported (ERWP, NCWP, JCWP, RDRWA)	4
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# of WPAC's Supported (BRBC)	1
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# of Students Enrolled in the Freshwater Field Study Program	0
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Projects Funded through WRRP in JCWP & Rosebud	2
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Strategy 2: Provide Expert Advice to Producers on Implementation of BMPs to Enhance Watershed Health

# of Workshops Planned re: Riparian Health & Restoration Projects	1
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# of Trained Staff to Assist With EFP & CAP	3
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# of Producers Who Received Assistance with an EFP	11
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# of EFP Calls	25
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# of Agri-Environmental Incentive Programs (4 Programs offered)	4
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# of Ag Producers utilizing Incentive Program	0
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Strategy 3: Augment Recycling of Ag Plastics & Ag Wastes – Through Cooperation With Solid Waste & Recycling

Agricultural Plastics Recycling Program

- Grain Bags Recycled
- Twine Recycled
- Barbed Wire

Environmental Program Plan Goal 2:

Assist Producers in the completion of EFP's and in accessing Canadian Agricultural Partnership funding to facilitate the adoption of BMPs.

Strategy 1: Maintain trained Ag Service staff to assist producers in accessing these programs

# of Trained Staff to Assist With EFP & CAP	3
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# of Training Events Attended	6
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Strategy 2: Host workshops and offer one-on-one consultations for producers to assist in obtaining these services

# of Producers Who Received Assistance with an EFP	11
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# of EFP Calls/Requests	25
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# of AgriView Newsletter Issues Produced	12
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# of AgriView Newsletters Sent to Producers	4,119
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Environmental Program Plan Goal 3:

Provide municipal financial incentives to encourage BMP adoption.

Strategy 1: Implement Agriculture Master Plan recommendations within County processes

# of Recommendations Integrated into County Processes	29 of 35
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